

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on March 6, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for not showing certain features described in the specification. In response, a New drawing sheet including new FIG 4 is enclosed. Further, the specification has been amended for conformance with the new FIG 4. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the drawings objection and approval of the enclosed proposed new drawing.

In the Office Action, claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over WO 01/24224 (Boonekamp) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,608,227 (Dierks). Further, claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Boonekamp in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,109,181 (Fischer). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-25 are patentable over

Boonekamp, Dierks and Fischer for at least the following reasons.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner correctly noted that Boonekamp does not teach or suggest an interference filter "in at least a part of the burner," as recited in independent claims 1 and 15. Dierks is cited in an attempt to remedy the deficiencies in Boonekamp.

Dierks shows in FIGs 1, 1A a short-arc discharge lamp having a discharge vessel or burner 2. As shown in FIG 1A, Dierks discloses that the inner wall of the burner 2 includes:

an inner layer 1b, formed by an absorbing titanium dioxide layer 2b. (Column 6, lines 47-51; emphasis added)

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 15, amongst other patentable elements, requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

an interference filter is arranged in at least a part of the burner.

An interference filter arranged in at least a part of the burner is nowhere taught or suggested in Boonekamp, Dierks, Fischer, and combination thereof. Rather, Dierks teaches to

include an absorbing layer 2b on the inner wall of the burner 2. The Dierks absorbing layer 2b is not an interference filter, as recited in independent claims 1 and 15, and does not include multi-layers having alternately high/low refractive indices, as recited in claims 8 and 21.

It should be noted that Applicants agree with the Examiner's assertion on page 11 of the Office Action that:

'an interference filter is arranged in at least a part of the burner' does not preclude having the film on outside surface of the burner,

Although, 'an interference filter ... arranged in at least a part of the burner,' as recited independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 15, does not preclude having the film on outside surface of the burner, nevertheless claims 1 and 15 recite an interference filter is arranged in at least a part of the burner, which is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Boonekamp, Dierks, Fischer, and combination thereof.

Further, on the last two lines on page 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner correctly noted that Boonekamp does not teach or suggest "a second light-absorbing coating located on an inner surface of the outer bulb," as recited in independent claim 25.

Fischer is cited in an attempt to remedy the deficiencies in Boonekamp.

Fischer shows in FIG 2 a high-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp 13. As specifically recited on column 3, lines 36-38:

The lamp 13 is surrounded by an outer envelope 15 of quartz glass, which is coated on the inner side with an interference filter 16.  
(Emphasis added)

Assuming, arguendo, that the Fischer interference filter 16 is also a light-absorbing coating, as asserted by the Examiner in the last sentence on page 11 of the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that Fischer, Boonekamp, Dierks, and combination thereof do not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 25 which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

a second light-absorbing coating located on an inner surface of the outer bulb, wherein the first light-absorbing coating and the second light-absorbing coating are substantially identical.

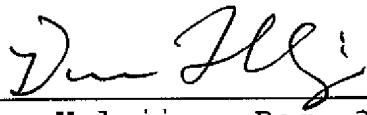
Having the same type of coating applied to both the inner and outer surface of the outer bulb is nowhere taught or suggested in Boonekamp, Dierks, and Fischer, alone or in combination.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 15 and 25 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-14 and 16-24 should also be allowed based at least on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 15.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
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Enclosure: New drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIG 4)

**THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP**  
Applied Technology Center  
111 West Main Street  
Bay Shore, NY 11706  
Tel: (631) 665-5139  
Fax: (631) 665-5101